

Suches...from Page 1A

mitting, the Independence Day events will be held on Saturday, Jim Miner said.

The Suches Fire Department had rescheduled their annual Independence Day fireworks celebration on the field behind the Woody Gap School for July 6th. Heavy rains put a damper on that.

On Saturday, the Suches fireworks tradition will begin at dark, but, the festivities begin earlier, as the Suches community and visitors will gather around 6 p.m. for hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and snacks. It's also a chance to greet friends, old and new, Miner said.

Back again this year is

the duck race in the creek that runs behind the school with the winning duck receiving a prize. This is part of the event sponsored by the Gaddistown Homemakers. Proceeds from the duck race go toward support for the Homemakers' local civic activities, Miner said.

In Hiawassee, the annual fireworks celebration at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds was held on July 6th General Manager Hilda Thomason said. The fireworks show was completed just before the skies opened up with another downpour.

"We got them in on Saturday," Thomason said. "We had designated Sunday, July

7th as the rain date."

A modified Lake Nottely Marina Boat Parade was held on July 4th. It was held a little later than scheduled.

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Boat Parade in Hiawassee was canceled due to inclement weather.

The Union County Farmers Market EGGstravaganza was held without too many complications.

Parking was at a premium as the grass fields that normally serve as a parking lot for the Market were closed due to the field being soaked.

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riage Association of America, Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said.

"Without a doubt, this will be one of the most memorable parades in Georgia Mountain Fair history," Thomason said. "We're proud to have the Governor and the Speaker, and we're excited to celebrate the good health of Christian Taylor."

Christian, the son of Jonathan and Jennifer Taylor, of Hiawassee, and grandson of Danny and Betty Wood Taylor, of Hiawassee, was born on June 9, 2009 with Tetralogy of Fallot with Pulmonary Arterial Defect (TOF-PA).

He has had three open heart surgeries. His first surgery was at 2 months old, again at 8 months old, and a third at almost 2 years old. He has also had three heart catheterizations resulting in four stents.

TOF-PA is a rare heart defect that only affects .07 cases per 1,000 live births.

TOF-PA involves four heart defects, a large ventricular defect (VSD); pulmonary Arterial Defect (born without main pulmonary artery); right ventricular hypertrophy; and an overriding aorta.

The good news is, at this point, Christian's heart is repaired and working properly although he will need several more heart cath and an open heart surgery in the next 10-15 years. In prior generations these complications were known as "blue baby" syndrome where babies came home, turned blue, and passed away.

Thanks to pioneering techniques by his surgeon Dr. Charles Fraser the Chief Surgeon at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas, the outlook of these babies born with this defect is great with them living a full normal life.

"We are so thankful for all of the thoughts and prayers from so many people," his

parents Jonathan and Jennifer Taylor said. "He is doing great, is a very happy little boy who is so energetic with a wonderful zest for life. You would never know of his heart condition if you meet him."

Yes, the 63rd Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade looks to be quite an event. To top the day off, Mel Tillis will perform at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on the day of the parade.

Meanwhile, the North Carolina Regional Horseless Carriage Group will hold their 62nd Annual Group Tour this year in Hiawassee on July 15th-19th.

The group of automobile enthusiasts will be in town to tour more than 400 miles of scenic beauty provided by the backroads of Hiawassee, Blairsville, Young Harris, Blue Ridge and Murphy.

They'll stay over an extra day to accommodate Gov. Deal, Speaker Ralston and Christian during their honors day in the Georgia Mountain

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and husband Bill LeGrande moved there. Lois moved to Wesley Mountain Village that same year.

Although Lois and H.K. had no children, her relatives include several nieces, nephews, and cousins scattered across Georgia and South Carolina. Lois also made many close friends at her church home in Blairsville, the First United Methodist Church. And, it's clear that this dear lady with "a twinkle in her eye" also made many other dear and close friends during the 27 years she graced our town.

One such dear and close friend is Patricia Collins, who met Lois when she first came to Blairsville from Decatur in March 1986. Collins was working at what was then First National Bank, now Community and Southern, when Lois started banking there. Collins recalls that the two ladies "hit it off right away" and they "stayed very close for the remainder of Mrs. Barr's life".

For 27 years, the two shared a love of cooking, gardening, and canning, and were just the best of friends. Collins said they would talk about their common interests, and share recipes.

Collins said Lois would always, without fail, remember

her birthday. Each year, Lois would cook for her, and invite her to her home in Wesley Mountain Village for lunch.

"Lois was always interested in others, above herself," Collins said. "Whenever I would see her, she would ask about all of my family, and later, when I had children, she would ask about my boys."

"This is what made her so special - her interest in others, and getting to know other people," Collins said. "She always enjoyed hearing about other people."

When asked what she will miss the most about Lois, Collins said, "Her friendship, and her interest in other people. That is what I will miss; and the prayers she would always pray for my family."

A lady of strong faith, Lois loved her God, and her church. As long as she was able, she attended First United Methodist Church Blairsville, every Sunday. When she was no longer able to attend, she would watch the Sunday service broadcast via cable at her home. In Lois' notebook was a special prayer, written in her own hand: "Day by Day. Oh, Dear Lord, Three things I pray: To see thee more clearly, to love thee more dearly, to follow thee more nearly, Day

by Day."

Many have said of Lois that her mind was sharp until her passing. It was reported that she played Scrabble, up until the end of her life.

Collins said, for example, "Mrs. Barr would meet a new person, and would see them a month later. She would greet them by name, and would ask them specifically about what she had learned about them."

Until the end of her life, Lois corresponded with relatives, friends, and former co-workers and sent letters and cards to them.

Lois remained in contact with her former boss at Frigid-Aire for whom she worked as secretary when she lived in Decatur in 1971. This gentleman is now 98 years old, lives in Florida, and he sent her a birthday card this year.

Collins said that if Lois was able, she is certain that she would have responded to this birthday card.

"She was a remarkable, amazing lady," Collins said. "She had a long and useful, good life. She was not one to just sit around. There will never be another lady like her. Many people were blessed by her, most of all me."

Enotah... from Page 1A



Lamar Paris

salaries and wages, according to the final budget. The District Attorney's Office experienced a budget increase in 2014 due to increases in health insurance premiums (\$76,784) and retirement contributions (\$39,450).

The circuit's Juvenile Courts will receive \$154,962 in 2014. That's down from \$157,062 in Fiscal 2013, according to the final budget.

The circuit's Superior Courts will receive \$92,825 in 2014. That's up from \$89,140 in Fiscal 2013, according to the final budget.

"All 12 members of the commission met earlier in the year and we discussed the overall expenses of the Enotah Judicial Circuit System. It then had to go back to White and Lumpkin counties for a committee vote since they have a five-member Board of Commissioners compared to the sole commissioner governments in Towns and Union

counties," Paris said. "Bill (Kendall) and I felt it was a good budget so we both agreed to it. White and Lumpkin counties also felt it was good so the Board Representatives from those two counties met with Bill and I to approve the final draft."

Towns Commissioner Kendall expressed his approval of the budget.

"We had some minor increases but overall it is basically the same as last year," Kendall said. The Enotah Court System fiscal year is different than the calendar year as